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HARTLY HOUSE.

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HARTLY HOUSE,

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IN THREE VOLUMES.

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HARTLY HOUSE.

LETTER XXVI.

HENCEFORTH, Arabella, you are to conſider me in a new point of view.—Aſhamed of the manners of modern Chriſtianity, (amongſt the profeſſors of which acts of devotion are ſubjects of ridicule, and charity, in all its amiable branches, a polite jeſt) I am become a convert to the Gentoo faith, and have my Bramin to inſtruct me *per diem*.

What a ſweet picture would the pen of Sterne have drawn of this young man's perſon! But ſuch is the European narrowneſs of ſentiment, that if I was to attempt to do it, you would inſtantly conclude,

I love the precepts for the teacher's ſake.

But love, I can aſſure you, is not ſo ſpontaneous an effect (in general) of a friendſhip between the ſexes, in India as in England; the object of admiration being mental charms, which bid defiance to decay.

The Mahometans have their public proceſſions as well as the Gentoos; but the colour of their minds, ſo unlike that amiable peo-

ple,

ple, is diſplayed therein—for the Gentoos dance, ſing, and pay their enraptured homage to their idols with benevolent aſpects—whereas the cuſtom of the ſons of Omar is to exhibit ſham-fights, as they are called, though often productive of very fatal and barbarous conſequences—inſomuch that, on my firſt knowledge of the light and darkneſs theſe religious ſhews are to each other, I felt myſelf in danger of becoming a *Braminate*, though all the wealth of Indoſtan could not bribe me to become a Mahometan.

And ſtriking, indeed, are the oppoſite tenets of theſe oppoſite people—for the Gentoos, with a liberality of temper for which I

ſhall ever honour them, beſtow ſouls without number, and exiſtence without end, on both ſexes; —the proud muſſulmen make a monopoly of immortality in their own perſons—for which piece of unauthorized daring, I am unable to reſtrain my indignation towards them, nor would I honour even the nabob himſelf with an exception, but that I have hopes of his apoſtacy—for, Arabella, whenever the time ſhall arrive, when either your charms or mine are deſtined to convince him he has a heart to fall a victim thereto, he will not, he cannot perſiſt in refuſing us a ſoul alſo.—Then his wealth pleads ſo powerfully for him, and his high-ſounding title, and his magnificence altogether

—that

—that one has very little to ſay in his diſfavour.—If you have made the obſervation, that the wicked tyrant Surajah Dowla, the deſtroyer of the Engliſh at Calcutta, is ſtyled a Soubah, you may perhaps wiſh to underſtand the difference between a Soubah and a Nabob.—The Moors, or Mahometan princes, are ſaid to have introduced the diviſion of India into provinces, or, as they are called in their language, ſoubahs; which provinces, being of ſuch immenſe extent as to form whole empires, were ſubdivided into nabobſhips, every nabob of courſe being immediately accountable to his ſoubah for his conduct and government. But in proceſs of time, from internal commo-

tions and irrepreſſible invaſions, both ſoubahs and nabobs became almoſt independent of the Mogul himſelf, or at leaſt held their dominions under him by the ſole tenure of an annual tribute. The rajahs, or kings, as you will find in the hiſtory of Indoſtan, are the unconquered Black Monarchs, who poſſeſs the Northern provinces, and furniſh the Mogul emperor, or any other prince, with troops of their own complexion, called Rajapoots, from their royal deſcent; who fight like the Swiſs for pay, without any curioſity or principle reſpecting the cauſe of conteſt. But a droll practice of theirs is, that on beholding their leader ſlain, they inſtantly deem themſelves abſolved from every engage-

engagement, and, openly laying down their arms, run out of the field—and this without incurring the ſlighteſt impeachment of their courage.

The great military officers of the Mogul are called Omrahs, and if they have been generals, they are called Mirzas. But though the Pagan rajahs and nobility inherit the honours and eſtates of their anceſtors, there are no ſuch things as hereditary honours or eſtates amongſt the Moors or Mahometans; but, on their deceaſe, all their poſſeſſions, real and perſonal, are ſeized by the ſovereign, as in Turkey. And, Arabella, you have heard much in England of jaghires, which I can

inform you are neither more or leſs than theſe lands, which revert, on the death of a Mahometan chief, &c. to the emperor; by whom they are ſometimes beſtowed on thoſe who occupy them, and ſometimes are their perſonal acquiſitions: ſome of which our countrymen have obtained as *douceurs* on certain great occaſions; their merits on thoſe occaſions, however, are not always either obvious or ſatisfactory to the higher powers in England.

Politics again!—but I am on the point of being furniſhed with a far more agreeable ſubject—for the theatre opens to-morrow, with Love in a Village—it opens, Arabella, when Doyly is abſent—

when

when your friend's heart is—and why ſhould not your friend's heart be occupied by ſoft ſentiments?—for, in a country where ſo large a number of its inhabitants dare to deny her a ſoul, ſure ſhe may amuſe herſelf with feeling ſhe has a heart. O how I at this moment wiſh myſelf in England!—I am faſcinated, to write ſo much about ſuch wicked unbelievers.

Adieu.

S. G.

LETTER

LETTER XXVII.

THE theatre, Arabella, is opened, and to-night will be honoured with my prefence. The door-keepers are, I am told, Europeans; for the black people, in an office of that nature, would have no authority with the public.

The doors will be opened at eight o'clock; but the performance ſeldom terminates, I am told, till twelve or one in the morning.

Mrs. D——, Mrs. and Mr. Hartly, my father, the country-born lady I have ſo often mentioned, and

Miſs

Miſs Hartly, (mentioned by me only in a melancholy mood, previous to my illneſs) accompany me; but alas! Arabella, I have not the requiſites about me, I had promiſed myſelf, for participating this, my neverthelefs favourite amuſement; for what ſays the poet?

——Not of themſelves the gay beauties can pleaſe,
We only can taſte, when the heart is at eaſe.

We go in palanquins, and ſhall make a fine illumination with our flambeaux; nor can you imagine a ſight more extraordinary, than the contraſt of the Gentoo complexion with their white dreſſes, or the advantage I am well aware it is to us Europeans, in general,

to

to have them about us; for who does not know the alternate and ſtriking effects of black and white? The artillery officers will alſo, I ſuppoſe, figure away in the boxes, and their uniform is elegant—blue, trimmed with ſilver—ſmart fellows, I can aſſure you; beſides the recommendation of being men of taſte and ſenſibility, as I could, if this was one of my vain moments, give you ſome undeniable proofs that they are.

Few things are more uncommon (or, let me tell you, more exemplary) than Mrs. D—— and my father's behaviour to each other; ſhe having the good ſenſe not to be *obtruſive*—he the good principle not to be a hypocrite:—they meet,

meet, without the folly of appointment, wherever they go—and are certain of ſpeaking each other's ſentiments in all converſations. I have obſerved my father penſive, without knowing the cauſe, until he has looked around and perceived Mrs. D—— abſent; when he has mechanically (ſo natural has been the action to his feelings) enquired if ſhe was not expected—and twice, Arabella, on hearing ſhe was confined at home with a cold—giving me a look of gentle reproach, he ordered his palanquin, to make her a viſit. If I aſk his opinion, he refers me to Mrs. D—— ; and on his applying to me for my choice in any inſtance, I always beg him to conſult that lady. "Her eye," I ſaid to him this morning,

morning, "my dear Sir, is become my law—my oracle, her tongue." "Grateful, winning girl," he called me, "child of his tendereſt affection;" and, pauſing a moment, "in return for your open, your liberal-mindedneſs, you ſhall know all that has paſſed in your father's heart.

"Mrs. Hartly has a thouſand perfections; of one fault, my Sophia, you muſt therefore permit me to accuſe her: ſhe did not do juſtice to Mrs. D——, in her manner of communicating, either to me or you, the approbation with which that lady honoured me; in conſequence of which, the firſt impreſſion you received of Mrs. D—— was not a favourable one.

"But

"But I was well acquainted with Mrs. D——'s noble diſpoſition, and numberleſs accompliſhments; and was therefore happy, ſince I could not offer her my hand, to ſoften my ſeeming neglect of her, and ungentlemanly return for her ſingular kindneſs, by ſoliciting her friendſhip for my Sophia.

"For, Sophia, at that period it was my fixed reſolution to end my days in the Eaſt. I will not wound you by the mention of my motives; but my whole ſoul was in the deſire of your eſtabliſhment in England. Mrs. D——'s fortune enabled her to live under whatever meridian ſhe liked beſt; and, from my knowledge of the female mind, I was perſuaded no event could be

more likely to take place, on her meeting with a little diſappointment in India, than that ſhe ſhould make England her place of reſidence; and to whoſe care could I have ſo ſatisfactorily intruſted my Sophia as Mrs. D——'s, whoſe generous way of thinking has made her a parent to the ſon of her cruel huſband?

"I told her my reſolution reſpecting myſelf, with circumſtances that melted her into tears you would have honoured, for your deceaſed parent was the object of them; and ſhe aſſured me ſhe would be all that dear departed one herſelf could wiſh to render her, in your ſervice. Your attachment to her, your filial anxiety for

me,

me, have produced a moſt unforeſeen alteration in the ſentiments of us all. I remain not at Bengal, when ſhe and you determine to quit it; but, by Mrs. D——'s requeſt, I mention no change of condition to her in India. We meet with pleaſure, we part with friendſhip; and, in a word, our manner of conſidering each other here, is an implied prelude to our living together in England; and this is a victory over my feeling, the view, as I believed, of your approaching diſſolution, could alone have effected:—but I am now convinced we both acted wrong. Your mother can never indeed be forgot by us, however wiſely or piouſly we may bring ourſelves to accept happineſs at the hands of

Providence, let it assume what shape it may.

Mrs. Hartly broke up our *tête-à-tête*, by telling us we should not be ready for dinner, if I did not make dispatch at my toilet.

I am, therefore, in great haste,

Your's, &c.

S. G.

LETTER XXVIII.

MISS Hartly and Miſs Rolle, the country-born lady I introduced to your knowledge, with her hooka before her, are only occaſionally our viſitants; for, in order to finiſh their education in a few particulars, they are, it ſeems, placed at a boarding-ſchool, the only one in Calcutta, in much eſteem with the Europeans.

The ſtipend, you may be aſſured, is conſiderable, but I have not yet qualified myſelf to announce it. There maſters in every

polite ſcience attend, and there are public days for the friends of the children to ſee them dance, in like manner as in England; and at this ſchool both the young ladies are to remain, until propoſals may be received for their change of condition. Their fortunes are ſmall (for Calcutta fortunes) twenty thouſand rupees, only; but I think there can be little doubt of Miſs Hartly's marrying well, from her own great merit, and her brother's good connections.—Had young D. been a better figure, and his mind ſuch as I could wiſh it, I would have tried my hand, for the firſt time, at match-making. I might have thought, you will perhaps ſay, of Doyly; but Doyly, I have already told

told you, is poor, and consequently such a union would ruin them both: besides, Arabella, why should you be so provoking, as to suggest him, when you know he is gone to England.

Morn. 4 o'clock.

I have been greatly entertained —the company, Arabella, was brilliant; and a birth-night could alone have eclipsed us.

The house is about the size of the Bath Theatre, and consists, as I was informed on my first arrival, of pit and boxes only: the first, an area in the center; the second, a range of commodious

encloſed, or rather ſeparated ſeats round it, from one corner of the ſtage to the other. No expence has, Arabella, been ſpared to gratify either the eye or the ear—a very pleaſing band of muſic ſaluted the preſent Governor on his entrance—and the pit was crowded with ſpectators. It is lighted up upon the Engliſh plan, with lamps at the bottom of the ſtage, and girandoles at proper diſtances, with wax candles, covered with glaſs ſhades, as in the verandas, to prevent their extinction; the windows being Venetian blinds, and the free circulation of air delightfully promoted by their ſituation.

The character of Young Meadows was very agreeably ſupported by

by one of the Company's writers, a young gentleman that viſits at Mr. Hartly's, and is in a riſing way. Moreover, if I have any ſkill in phyſiognomy, he does not behold the ſiſter of that houſe with unfavourable eyes, and I muſt mention as much to Mrs. Hartly. Hawthorn was performed by an adjutant in the artillery; Deborah Woodcock, by poor Doyly's patron, who has much pleaſantry; Roſetta, by a young gentleman in the law department; Lucinda, by the ſon of an Eaſt India captain; and in like manner were the other characters filled up: and I do declare upon my word and honour, that I was as well entertained as if the female parts had been ſuſtained by females—and

again wiſh, in the cauſe of morality, the cuſtom could be re-eſtabliſhed in England. The ſcenery was beautiful, and the dreſſes ſuperb. Here Golconda's wealth in all its genuine luſtre aſtoniſhed the beholder, and a profuſion of ornamental pearls were diſpoſed with good taſte; in a word, whether it was the poet, or the performers, or the diamonds, or the air of enchantment they all together certainly wore, I know not; but ſo pleaſing an effect had the whole upon my mind, that I forgot Doyly, my native country, my Arabella, and my mother, and, for the only period of my reſidence at Bengal, was completely happy.

Several

Several country-born ladies figured away in the boxes, and by candle-light had abſolutely the advantage of the Europeans; for their dark complexions and ſparkling eyes gave them an appearance of animation and health, the Europeans had no pretenſions to; and their perſons are genteel, and their dreſs magnificent. Whereas, on the other hand (ſpeaking for myſelf at leaſt) paleneſs and languor told the country of my birth, and were not to be concealed or compenſated by all that polite negligence, or accompliſhed manners, could do.

The pit was full of gentlemen of every denomination, which gentlemen paid their compliments,

at

at convenient pauſes, to the ladies; who, by the aids of perfumes and verandas, of fruit and of flattery, went through the fatigue of the evening with a good grace, and were conveyed home, as they were conveyed there, in their palanquins, in very tolerable ſpirits.

As for myſelf, my attention was ſo engaged by the piece, that my heart ſeveral times aſked, if it could be poſſible I was at the diſtance of 4,000 miles from the Britiſh metropolis?

Lionel and Clariſſa is to be the next performance.

The gentlemen to whom we were indebted for our evening's enter-

entertainment, were ſoon at our ſupper-table; and the evening would have been concluded with a rational degree of chearfulneſs, beyond all one can hope for in large companies, but for a little incident I ſhall mention:—Doyly's patron was ſo generous (having diſpatched him, poor fellow, acroſs the ocean on an embaſſy) to declare himſelf his rival. I was almoſt ſorry the Gentoos had taken ſo much pains to fiſh him up on the Bugero diſaſter, and could alone conſider him as the enemy of a youth, whoſe life he had moſt cruelly a ſecond time endangered—for who knows not the precarious ſafety of him who rides upon the waves? This declaration was laughed off; but having

ſwallowed

ſwallowed his complement of claret, he no leſs ſuddenly than forcibly ſeated himſelf between Mrs. D—— and me; and, calling every power to witneſs that he would have one of us, boiſterouſly kiſſed Mrs. D——'s cheek. I trembled for my father's feelings; nor was ſhe, I believe, without her tender alarms. However, with a command of temper that aſtoniſhed me, ſo preſent was ſhe to the occaſion, that ſhe told him, on condition he gave up his chair to Mr. Hartly, ſhe would be glad to hear how handſomely he could make love to her the next morning; and handſomely ſhe was convinced, (by the abilities he had diſplayed in the character he had performed) he could acquit himſelf in every

every inſtance. This had the deſired effect; and Mr. Hartly exchanging ſeats with him, univerſal harmony was reſtored. Mr. Hartly, however, whiſpered us, that he muſt give him a civil hint, ſuch freedoms were not to be repeated in his houſe.

How I rejoiced in the circumſtance, which, but a moment before, was no ſoothing recollection! for the winds and the waves, in their utmoſt wrath and violence, could alone rob Doyly of his exiſtence; whereas, had he died in a quarrel, of which I was the cauſe, could I have attempted to ſurvive him?—I would not be this bold man's wife, was he the Great Mogul himſelf.

My

My opinion was then aſked by the gentlemen, my genuine opinion (as being a competent judge, from my acquaintance with the London theatres) of the Calcutta candidates for fame on theatrical ground; and it was with pleaſure I could, and did ſincerely aſſure them, that I found good ſenſe was ſufficient to make a gentleman a player, though all the profeſſional excellence on earth, without good-breeding and liberal connections, could not make a player a gentleman.

My father and Mrs. Hartly exchanged a look (for I did not perceive their lips move) that was perfectly intelligent to each other, and Mrs. D—— left us

not, nor is ſhe to leave us until to-morrow evening; ſo it is plain my father was not an unmoved ſpectator of the rough ſcene.—I ſhall dream, Arabella, of thoſe horrible trees of deſtruction—and moſt heartily do I wiſh myſelf in England.

Yours,

S. G.

LETTER

LETTER XXIX.

HALF a word of Doyly, and I have done.—Should he arrive ſafe, Arabella, and deliver into your hands the *chit* with which I have intruſted him, treat him kindly, for he has a truly valuable heart.

My father was in the breakfaſt-room before me — not ſo Mrs. D——; for ſhe had ſlept little, ſhe ſaid, and complained of the head-ach.

My father's eyes met mine; he was greatly alarmed—"If we ſhould loſe

loſe you, Madam," ſaid he, in a low voice, walking up to her, "how ardently ſhall I wiſh my Sophia had never known you!"

"I ſhall do very well," replied ſhe, ſmiling, "I hope, notwithſtanding the endeavours of all your friendly countenances to terrify me. Bear witneſs, Mr. Hartly, if I die, I pronounce myſelf the victim of the diſmal faces around me." We all made an awkward attempt to ſmile, in return to this lively ſally; but Mrs. D—— proteſted it was a vile imitation, and begged us to deſiſt. "However," ſaid ſhe, "though I am unwilling to prolong ſo melancholy a ſcene, (having beheld diſeaſe in various forms, and well knowing

that the moſt ſevere attack muſt have its commencement) I think I ſhould be unpardonable, not to ſet my houſe in ſome little order. Is there any one in this company ſo weak," cried ſhe, "looking around her, as to ſuppoſe the idea of making a will a bad omen? if ſo, let them be turned out, for they are a diſgrace to good ſenſe, and an inſult to piety." We were all ſilent. "Have you, Mr. Goldſborne, never made your will?"—"Yes, Madam," replied my father, "within theſe laſt three weeks of my life—and have preſumed to appoint you, without either your knowledge or conſent, my executrix, in one inſtance."

"I will be more polite than you

then," ſaid ſhe, "and ſolicit permiſſion to encumber you with the care of a young man, who, if he ſurvives me, will not have a friend on earth to guide him aright.—His temper is not without faults," continued ſhe, "but I do hope his heart is in the right place; and your friendſhip will awe him into the adoption of your example.—Sophia, my gentle Sophia, take your pencil, and, before the lawyer arrives, commit what I ſhall tell you to paper." I obeyed; but my hand ſhook in ſuch a manner, I was fearful I could not form a letter. "To Sophia Goldſborne," ſaid ſhe, "I bequeath my firmneſs of mind, that ſhe may never more be found incapable of aſſiſting a friend in

need.—But I think I am better; and ſo, Miſs Sophia, put up your pencil with your trembling hand, and let me be left alone with Mr. Hartly, who is the only perſon preſent that does not wear the features of my executioner; and yet I am confident he takes as kind an intereſt in my health and ſafety, as the beſt of you all."

"Mrs. D—— can be inſincere," ſaid I, "which is a ſin of the heart; whereas the offence I committed againſt her, was the ſin of my conſtitution."

"I deny it," ſaid ſhe—"your heart was equally guilty with mine; for

for virtues are vices, when productive of baneful conſequences."

My father aroſe, bowed, and was withdrawing. "Why, Mr. Goldſborne," ſaid Mrs. D——, "if I was not afraid of your oppoſing my laſt will and teſtament, I ſhould not have the leaſt objection to your being preſent, when the gentleman I have ſent for arrives. Do you allow it is lawful for a woman to diſpoſe of her property to her wiſhes? or would you recommend the delicacies and romantic fancies of her friends for her rule of conduct?—I have (but do let us all ſit quietly down) a good deal of wealth. Young D—— ſhall receive from me as much as he can ſpend with a good

grace.—And now, Mr. Goldſborne, I aſk your advice, who ſhall I leave the remainder to? relations I never heard of (if ſuch relations are upon the earth). To the patron of poor Doyly, in return for kindneſſes received? Or do you allow it to be reaſonable I ſhould beſtow it upon one I love, though that one ſhould happen to be your own daughter? I will lay a thouſand pounds you give judgment againſt my inclination."

"You do me injuſtice, Madam," replied my father;—"may you long live to enjoy your fortune! but, ſhould my daughter be fated to ſurvive you, I hope I can anſwer for her being grateful to your memory,

memory, for every mark of your affection you may be pleaſed to confer upon her."

"You ſurpriſe me," ſaid Mrs. D——, "you moſt agreeably ſurpriſe me."

"Then have I done more by you, Madam, than your utmoſt generoſity to my daughter will do by me. However, ſince we have been led ſo far upon the ſubject of wills, I muſt beg you will do me the favour to read mine;" and, taking out his pocket-book, he broke the ſeals of a ſmall packet, and put it into her hands.

"It is very conciſe," ſaid ſhe; "but I hope there is ſome mention

of Mrs. D——, that will prove to her, that her friendſhip for this company does not ſo far outſtrip the friendſhip entertained for her as ſhe may imagine."—Many were the changes of countenance ſhe exhibited, whilſt ſhe peruſed it. "You have made me quite vain," ſaid ſhe, "Sir, by intruſting me with the contents of this paper; am I not, then, in danger of becoming leſs worthy of your good opinion?" I felt my curioſity intereſted, but would not ſhew it; and my father returned it into the pocket-book from whence he had taken it.

The lawyer now arrived, and young D—— came ſoon after. The buſineſs was, however, ſoon over;

over; and Mrs. D——, with great kindneſs, called to tell me ſhe was not worſe, and waited to introduce her ſon. I made all poſſible haſte to dreſs, and hurried into her apartment; but fancying ſhe looked very ill, all the vivacity, the lively aſſurance of her not being ill, had given birth to in my breaſt, forſook me, and I could only ſay, "Is this, Madam, the young gentleman?"

Mr. D—— (for, early days as it is with him, he aſſumes that title) made me a very decent bow; and, upon the whole, appeared much leſs diſagreeable in his perſon, than on my firſt view of him; and I could perceive ſhe was pleaſed that I paid him ſome attention.

tention. He did not, however, ſtay long with us; and ſhe told me, as ſoon as we were alone, I ſhould greatly oblige her, by ſaying what I really thought of a plan ſhe had formed, in her own mind, for his eſtabliſhment. "In the firſt place, obſerve, my Sophia, I mean to give him a good fortune, and, of courſe, enable him to chuſe a woman leſs amply provided for, if her connections and her character are recommendatory. Miſs Hartly is an agreeable girl; and, I think, comes in every reſpect under my deſcription. She is too happy, nevertheleſs, with all her merit, to be troubled with your nicety of temper; and will not diſdain to hear a generous matrimonial propoſal, from a young

young man, though his perſon may not be the moſt unexceptionable in the world. He is not ill-tempered, though a coxcomb; and ſhe will only have to humour his foibles, to do what ſhe pleaſes with him.—Is my ſcheme good or bad?"

"We do not," ſaid I, "Madam, behold Miſs Hartly with the ſame eyes. To me, ſhe is elegant in her perſon, and lovely in her manners." And, Arabella, as from the abundance of the heart (you know the proverb) we are apt to ſpeak, I was within a hair's breadth of telling her my ſcheme for Doyly; but, checking myſelf, "Madam," ſaid I, "is not the gentleman very young?"—"He is

turned of twenty," ſaid ſhe. (I was amazed; for on the courſe I did not ſuppoſe it poſſible he could be more than ſixteen, at the utmoſt.) "Eighteen years of which," continued Mrs. D——, "I have had him under my care, if I may ſo expreſs myſelf, when the fact is, that half the time, I ſcarcely ever beheld him, and he was not encouraged to bear me much reſpect. He is one of thoſe that improve upon acquaintance; and, though no genius, does not want for ſenſe. His coxcombry is his only great fault; and time, and a diſcreet wife, I think, will do much towards extinguiſhing that folly."

Every body went to Lionel and Clariſſa,

Clariſſa, except Mrs. D——, my father, and myſelf, who played a ſhort pool at tradrille. It was not, however, to be concealed, that though Mrs. D—— did her beſt to make us happy, ſhe was indiſpoſed, and I prevailed with her to retire early.

I will only take upon me to anſwer for myſelf; but certain it is, I paſſed the night in great anxiety, and ſelf-condemnation. Had I not been the illiberal girl I have been, it is moſt probable we ſhould have avoided the preſent threatening evil. Let no one hereafter, who would eſcape ſelf-reproach—eſcape ſelf-condemnation—fail to improve every poſſible opportunity of promoting the

happineſs

happineſs of their friends; for, ultimately, that conduct will be to promote their own. What was it I feared? that my dear father, to love his wife, muſt ceaſe to love his child? and thence, in the moment I was profeſſing the warmeſt filial affection for him, prefer a ſituation for him that muſt, on any change of condition I might turn my thoughts to, leave him comfortleſs and companionleſs! Nay, how could I find the pleaſure I did in Mr. Doyly's converſation, without remembering, how many melancholy hours the converſation of ſuch a woman as Mrs. D——, could preſerve my father from experiencing?

I, to the diſobedience of every injunction

injunction I had received, and the breach of every promiſe I had made, was in Mrs. D——'s chamber at ſeven o'clock, and had the grief to find her unable to ſit up. She confeſſed to me, that Mr. Emſon (Doyly's patron) had frightened her; and imputed her indiſpoſition ſolely to that cauſe. "But this is a piece of information," ſaid ſhe, "we muſt not give your father. The quarrels of men are ſo alarming, that whoever wiſhes to prevent miſchief, muſt be cautious how they breathe inflammatory complaints before the ſex, leſt ſome idle or fatal point of honour ſhould make them conceive themſelves bound to reſent, or even remonſtrate with the offending party."

I went

I went down to breakfaſt with the moſt chearful look I could aſſume; and, as we were only a family ſet, this morning, by way of amuſing my friends, I mentioned Mrs. D——'s wiſhes reſpecting Miſs Hartly; and, contrary to my expectations, found her perfectly right. Mr. Hartly ſaid, "The offer was equal to whatever his ſiſter had a right to expect; and that the kind intentions of ſuch a mother as Mrs. D——, were full ſecurity for the felicity and proviſion of the woman ſhe was ſo generous as to make the object of her choice, and honour with her friendſhip and protection." This had the deſired effect, and filled up the breakfaſt hour; but, on my acknowledging

knowledging that Mrs. D—— did not think of dining with them, a cloud of diſcontent hung on every brow. Mr. Hartly was ſo good as not to leave my father; and I, with a heavy heart, re-viſited Mrs. D——. In the evening, however, her phyſician aſſured us, ſhe was not in the ſmalleſt danger; and ſo we were all convinced, and, therefore, very freely forgave him the *prudent* attention, it was evident, he meant to pay to his own intereſt; nor did he pronounce his viſits unneceſſary, until he had pocketed two hundred gold mohrs. Who then ſhall complain, that the ſons of Eſculapius, in England, underſtand a little manœuvring; or,

when occaſion fairly preſents itſelf, contrive to reimburſe ſome of the great expence of time and fortune, which is inevitable, before they can obtain their diploma? I proteſt it would be for the good of ſociety at large, in Britain, if ſome characters, I could mention, were to ſmart for one twelve months under the exactions, from which there is no defence in India, for the man or woman of wealth, except flying the country; nor do I conceive, if Mrs. D—— would tell the truth, that the law and medicine, ſhe has ſo recently ſtood in need of, has coſt her leſs than five hundred pounds ſterling, in ſo ſhort a period as four days.

Mrs.

Mrs. D—— is gone home—and it is reported, that Mr. Emſon ſails next month for Europe—two circumſtances that have had ſo agreeable an operation on our feelings, that we go to the play to-morrow evening (the Conſcious Lovers); and I ſhall, the next morning, reſume my cuſtom of telling you all I learn of this country and its inhabitants. For, ſo numerous are the people of England connected with the Eaſt, that I am well ſatisfied I ſhall enable you to figure away, to the delight of three-fifths of the company into which you will circulate, in conſequence of my equally *entertaining* and *intelligent* correſpondence. Nor is there any impropriety or indelicacy, Ara-

bella, in ſaying a handſome thing of ourſelves, when we are ſo ſituated, (which, at the preſent writing, is the caſe with me) that it muſt otherwiſe be *unknown*.

Congratulate us, I charge you, on our cauſe for rejoicing reſpecting Mrs. D——; and, if Doyly is with you, when this letter arrives, communicate the contents, and he will truly rejoice alſo; for he has the moſt ſincere and abundant good-will for her of any one I am acquainted with, my father excepted.

I am your's, &c. &c.

S. G.

LETTER

LETTER XXX.

THE natives of Bengal have no dirty cuſtoms, like the Europeans. For example, if a ſnuff-taker is mentioned, you know he, or ſhe, is an European; inſomuch that, partial as I am to my native country, I muſt wiſh that it would take a leſſon from hence, and reprobate ſeveral propenſities I could name, that are altogether incompatible with the virtue of cleanlineſs. Your own obſervation will ſuggeſt the points of indecorum, not to ſay indecency, which I allude to.

I was ſtartled, within this half hour, by the diſcharge of guns; for, though the affair of the Black Hole is but little remembered, at this diſtant period, at Calcutta, I myſelf am unable to forget it. Accordingly, with emotions I will not ſtop to deſcribe, I ſent to enquire the cauſe of the firing at the Fort, &c. &c.

The funeral of one of the Company's officers, was the anſwer I received; and the minute guns were continued for ſome time, with a ſolemn effect on my feelings; nor could I ſuppreſs a wiſh to ſee the proceſſion—but that was negatived by all my friends; and yet, Arabella, to me, this kind prohibition heightened the concern

cern I took in the affair.—Death again!—It is a ſubject that inſenſibly forces itſelf upon my notice, and tinges my moſt brilliant efforts at agreeable deſcription, with a gloom, I fear, you muſt find contagious.

The tide of the Ganges (for I will change my ſubject) for three ſucceſſive months flows one way; ſo that though ſhips can at all ſeaſons (as far as that article is accommodating) leave Calcutta, no ſhip, on any extremity whatever, for three months, can effect its navigation thereto; a circumſtance that accounts for what you may often hear mentioned, of Indiamen loſing their paſſage to this coaſt, and being ob-

liged to defer it, until the ſacred river becomes propitious.

I own I was much diſappointed by my view of the banks of the Ganges, for I expected to have ſeen them ornamented with every beauty of the vegetable world, the ſpontaneous product of the ſoil; inſtead of which, its borders are unfavoured by nature, and uncultivated by art; and alone exhibit a ſameneſs of proſpect, wholly unintereſting to the beholder.

The immediate ſhores of Culpee and Cudjeree, where, as I have already mentioned, the Indiamen are ſtationed (though not ſo ſtrictly as heretofore, for ſome of them come up as high as Diamond

Point) are viſited by both officers and ſailors—who, having made a fire, ſit fearleſs around it, in the very face of enemies that would chill my blood with horror—for tigers, I am aſſured, approach ſo near, as to be within a bound or two of the ſpot they occupy; though no inſtance has ever yet occurred, in which the fire has not proved their infallible ſecurity. Would one conceive it poſſible, Arabella, that any of the human ſpecies could ſit with tranquillity amidſt the howlings of formidable brutes, prompt to devour?—All the ſea forms are obſerved, on entering the mouth of the Ganges, of hoiſting a pendant for pilots, and receiving the ſalutes of the ſhips previouſly arrived,

rived, in their paſſage to the Hughley, the name under which a branch of this celebrated river runs for above fifty miles, and on the moſt weſtern part of which the New Fort is erected.

And now I mention the Fort, I recollect I have not yet told you that the public priſon is within its walls; and few things, Arabella, are more curious or ſtriking, than the machines which convey the priſoners from thence to the Court-Houſe to take their trials. The wheels of this machine are fourteen feet at leaſt high, and under the axle-tree is ſuſpended a wooden cage, ſufficiently large to contain a couple of culprits, perforated with air-

holes

holes to preſerve them from ſuffocation; and in this miſerable plight, guarded both before and behind by ſeapoys, they are exhibited to the eyes of the populace—the whole of which has to me a very diſtreſſing appearance. There is but one Court for civil and criminal cauſes, though the judges are three in number; and an Armenian always attends, as interpreter between the Court and the plaintiff, or defendant, on all occaſions. Moreover, the Company have a linguiſt entertained in their ſervice, who is a Baronet, and receives a liberal gratuity for the exerciſe of his knowledge of thoſe languages, ſo eſſential to their commercial intereſts. The Eſplanade, like thoſe ſeveral royal parks,

parks, St. James's, the Green, and Hyde Park, anſwers manifold purpoſes of convenience and pleaſure to the Europeans.

For the Eſplanade contains, beſides the race-ground, many ſhady and delightful ſpots; the roads alſo to the Fort, to Watſon's Works, &c. &c. lie through it; and it is often frequented by moon-light, by elegant walking parties, notwithſtanding both the Company's and the Governor's gardens are always open for polite reſort, and contain articles of vegetation of the firſt beauty and value, and every other mark of taſte and happy cultivation.

You will naturally ſuppoſe, that

ſtatuary

ſtatuary is a ſpecies of garden ornament the Governor and Company are not unmindful of; but to give you a liſt of the characters introduced, is a taſk I ſhall not undertake. — I had, indeed, a ſcheme for immortalizing you and Doyly, could I have only brought you together on this ſpot; for, ſuperadded to a Milton, who

Into the heaven of heavens, &c. &c.

your figure ſhould have repreſented the Allegro, his the Penſeroſo, of that ſublime poet. But I thank Mr. Emſon's tyranny, and your want of affection for Sophia Goldſborne, that ſo happy a thought muſt remain unexecuted. — I trifle, Arabella, with my pen, when my heart is dejected;

jected;—but I beg you will conſider that dejection as one of thoſe many follies human nature is ſurpriſed into, when pleaſure, by too long enjoyment, has loſt the power to pleaſe; and that, like another Alexander, weeping for the diſcovery of unconquered worlds, we weep for want of ſome new amuſement.

Landſcapes, ruins, and every rural, every intereſting *et cætera*, are much admired at Calcutta, as garden decorations; and I viſit a lady who is miſtreſs of a ſpot, that is a cloſe copy of Mrs. Southgate's beautiful lawns, parterres, and diſplays of agriculture, which meet the eye at her villa in the neighbourhood of Chertſey.

Did I ever yet tell you, that dreams and omens are much attended to by the natives of Calcutta—and that they have their lucky and unlucky days, which they obſerve with the ſame religious deference, as the moſt ſuperſtitious European of us all?

The well-bred and well-informed, affect to ridicule theſe attentions; but I can clearly perceive, that there are few minds uninfluenced by them—and, if you would do me ſtrict juſtice, ſeparate me not from the number—for when I dream of my father, or you in particular, I am either animated or depreſſed, according to the agreeable or terrific ſenſations with which I awake. Is this

a proof

a proof of affection or weakneſs? —I own to you, I wiſh to be flattered by you on the ſubject; and let me not be diſappointed.

I have told you, the outſide of the houſes are white—but I find, bricks are made at Calcutta;—and therefore, unleſs waſhed by the compoſition called Chinam, I have been too haſty in my concluſions; for it was my idea, that the walls conſiſted merely of a clayey kind of ſubſtance, or of lath and plaſter; ſo little defence is neceſſary againſt the climate.

When the hot winds are abroad, the angel of death, Arabella, is buſy in all quarters; and, though numbers ſurvive, the devaſtations

are

are awful. Then is exiſtence only ſupportable in the morning and evening; and the whole European people droop the head, and diſſolution ſolely occupies their thoughts.—I ſhall infect you—unleſs I haſten to tell you, I am,

Your's, &c.

S. G.

LETTER XXXI.

MOORSHEBAD is the place at which the nabob of Bengal formerly kept his court, and which I, on that account, have a ſtrange curioſity to viſit. Our late Governor reſided there, in the boſom of eſteem and reſpect, even at the time when conteſts were deciding between the Company's ſervants and his *Mightineſs* on the ſword's point; and near this city is the Gentoo univerſity I have already mentioned.—I find myſelf very dull—but opiates are ſometimes as ſalutary as cordials, and common life does not unremittingly

tingly ſupply us with great or aſtoniſhing incidents.

It is rather *mal-a-propos*—but no matter—I will, while it is freſh in my memory, tell you, that the natives wear arm-bracelets; and, as a proof of my remembrance of you, I have enabled myſelf, on my return, to preſent you with a pair of no contemptible value.

It is my intention (though perhaps it may ſurpriſe you) on my return to England, to viſit all places of polite reſort in ſuch magnificent apparel, as may beſpeak the ſplendor and the dignity of my Eaſtern connections, and obtain me firſt-rate conſequence in my native country.

For, unleſs I bear the marks of travelled knowledge about me, who will be inclined to give me the ſuperiority I am ſo juſtly entitled to, over thoſe who have never travelled at all?

The Conſcious Lovers is a piece I read with diſpleaſure (at leaſt ſome ſcenes of it) and behold repreſented with diſguſt: — Sir Richard Steele is in general both a chaſte and a moral writer;—and how ſuch a character could be capable of drawing a Cimberton, with all his *outre* licentiouſneſs about him, is to me a problem beyond the power of the preſent age to reſolve.

However, to ſpare the author, I will advert to the performers of this comedy. The Roſetta of Love in a Village, with elegance and propriety ſuſtained the part of Indiana; and in Beville, a young gentleman recently arrived from China, did himſelf great credit. Mrs. D—— was ſo pleaſed with him, that ſhe invited him to her houſe, as did alſo the Hartlys; and my father honoured him with ſo much notice, that I began to fear he would ouſtrip poor Doyly in his approbation;—but let him do his beſt, I will not be found an unfaithful friend to the abſent. Should he chuſe to admire me, he has my conſent; but for a ſerious attachment he muſt excuſe me.

You complain, Arabella, that inſtead of enabling you, in fancy, to trace out my voyage to India, ſtep by ſtep, and enter into my amuſements and ſurpriſes—that the firſt of my letters is dated Bengal Bay, and all my ſucceeding ones are filled with anecdotes and deſcriptions of Calcutta. I aſſure you, it is not my fault that you are not better informed; for I wrote you every particular, I could ſuppoſe would amuſe you, from Madras, and did believe it would be ſafely tranſmitted to you. However, ſince you ſo much deſire it, I will endeavour to recollect the few obſervations I had an opportunity of making, and adventures I met with, before I reached

reached this land of gallantry and politeneſs.

The firſt port we touched at on our paſſage, was the Madeiras, which I need not tell you, is an African iſland, in the hands of the Portugeſe. It conſiſts, chiefly, of a wonderful rock, the ſurface of which is a continuation of vineyards, fruitful beyond credibility; and though our ſtay was ſhort, we made a viſit to the Governor, whoſe houſe is ſituated on ſuch an eminence, that we laboured hard to attain it: but, the eminence attained, our reception and entertainment well rewarded our trouble.

The principal town is Fun-

chall: but ſo much has already been ſaid of this place by other voyagers, that I will only mention a dexterous and critical manœuvre, performed by the Portugueſe; for, by means of the ſurf, on your quitting the iſland, boats are ſhot to a diſtance from the ſhore, that is like enchantment; and though dangerous, is ſeldom known to be fatal, theſe people being ſo perfectly acquainted with the buſineſs. Here we took in ſome pipes of that wine, which receives its name from the Iſland; and it is not improbable, on their return to England, (having twice doubled the Cape, and acquired the perfection believed derivable from that circumſtance) but you may drink my health in ſome part

of

of it, when circulated thro' your metropolis, by the wine-merchant to whom it is conſigned.

From the ſtarting of ſome of our water caſks, we brought to in the harbour of St. Johanne, a ſmall iſland, inhabited by black people only; who, from a ſpecies of whimſical pride, are ambitious of being employed, though in the meaneſt offices, by the Engliſh. Amuſed with the ſingularity of their humour, I ſuppoſe, ſome of the ſhip's crews, that have viſited them, have made them underſtand the dignity and conſequence of Dukes and Marquiſſes, &c. &c. in the Britiſh empire; for, ludicrous as you may conceive it, our water caſks were filled and rolled,

to and from the ſhore, by a Lord Duke, and three Earls, of the firſt titles you are acquainted with; together with a whole illuſtrious progeny of ſons and daughters around, ſoliciting equal honours in our ſervice.

At St. Helena, I was much ſtruck by the tranſparency of the water at the mouth of the harbour, to the depth of upwards of thirty fathoms, which flows over black rocks, that are as viſible to the eye, as if barely beneath the ſurface.

At Bombay, the Company have a dock, and a moſt capacious harbour; to which place of ſafety the India ſhips make their periodical return;

return; for, though the mountains Balagant (which run the length of the peninſula, within the Ganges) are ſo high as to check the weſtern monſoons, yet is the Coromandel coaſt in no degree fitted to be the ſtation of ſhips, beyond a certain time.

I was aſhore at Madras—the Governor's boat being ſent off for our conveyance, which is well built and manned. But the boats are, all of them, merely boards laſhed together by a kind of thongs, made of ſome vegetable ſubſtances; the thongs paſſing thro' holes bored for that purpoſe, and ſtopped by chinam.

Their appearance is unwieldy; nor

nor are they ſo well calculated to bear the ſea, having flat bottoms, as thoſe of a different conſtruction; on which account, it is no unfrequent thing for them to be ſwampled, that is, filled by water, and ſunk, with all on board, to the utmoſt depth of the harbour.—They are manned by ſix Blacks, one of whom ſteers, and one watches the waves; for, to ſpeak in the nautical language, what they have ſucceſſively to encounter, are, the ſurfs, and a lull; and, during the laſt calm moment, they pull with all their might, and then prepare themſelves to combat the violence of the former. The paſſengers, however, when acquainted with the laws of the place, take a ſouſing with great compoſure;

ſure; for, ſhould one ſingle European be loſt by a ſwamp, all the poor Blacks belonging to the boat are put to death; they are, therefore, certain of being fiſhed up with ſafety and dexterity, with no worſe conſequence than ſpoiling their cloaths, and, of courſe, preventing their figuring away on the iſland.

The Governor's houſe is a handſome building, and his entertainment of ſtrangers liberal. The iſland conſiſts of two towns, called, from the complexion of their inhabitants, the White and Black Towns. The name of Fort St. George is ſo ſeldom uſed, that it is almoſt forgot—it is under the civil, and every other regulation

of

of Calcutta.—Of the Cape I ſhall not ſpeak—though I was regaled with ſome of the wine ſo called, whilſt we lay off Table Bay—ſo much has been written, by perſons of taſte and information, reſpecting the beauty of the country.—We were treated with an illumination, very ſurpriſing in its appearance, from fire inſects, which overſpread the ſurface of the water; and, though prepared for it by report, I did not marvel the leſs on beholding it.—The Line, I need not tell you, is twice croſſed in an Eaſt India voyage, and many phœnomena are encountered;—ſuch as its raining on each ſide of the ſhip, without one drop falling upon deck; of which I, your friend, was a ſpectator, with

with alternate ſqualls and calms, that ſtartle a freſh-water ſailor; and this is all I can remember, uninſerted in a multitude of authors, who have either been eye-witneſſes of what they relate, or received their accounts from good authority.—The tempeſts off the Cape, are, in general, frightful; but ſo proſperous were our gales, that Neptune's domain has no terrors for my recollection, experienced in my own perſon—tho' I tremble at every breeze, on account of thoſe to which my perhaps leſs fortunate friends may be expoſed.

Mrs. Hartly has ſent to inform me, by Miſs Rolle, that a reſolution has juſt now been carried, *nem. con.*

con. by the company, aſſembled in the ſaloon, with my father's higheſt approbation, to deprive me of the uſe of pen, ink, and paper, during my future reſidence at Bengal. Which will they puniſh moſt, Arabella, you or me? I leave you to decide, (as you beſt know how far my literary labours are pleaſing, and imagine yourſelf competent to declare the degree of pleaſure I receive therefrom) whilſt I attend this tribunal; where I am certain of creating more friends by a gracious ſmile or two, than I ſhall find malecontents from any article of conduct in your

S. G.

LETTER

LETTER XXXII.

IT is a common obſervation, Arabella, with moral writers, and the fact is literally true at Calcutta—that life is a chequered ſcene. —The laſt ſhips that take their departure this ſeaſon, are gone, and my levees are ſenſibly affected by the returns to Europe. But I am told the rule at Calcutta is, to balance the regrets of abſence by the pleaſures of reunion.

"Do but conceive," ſays Mrs. Hartly, "what delight it will give you to renew theſe intermitted

connections—to hear all the news from England—to receive freſh ſupplies of faſhion—and, perhaps," added ſhe, with an agreeable look of meaning, "ſee Edmund Doyly again."

I felt myſelf bluſh, to a painful degree, as we were not alone; for, if we had, I ſhould not have attempted concealments, that would have been an inſult on her penetration. She, however, kindly relieved me, by inſtantly changing the ſubject, and appearing unconſcious of her triumph over my former reſerves;—yet would it be much the wiſeſt part in me, to appoint a ſucceſſor in my partiality—for my mind, Arabella,

tells me, I ſhall ſee Doyly no more.

Young D—— improves every hour, and mixes in all our parties;—which is a proof of one of Cheſterfield's tenets, however apocryphal I hold them in general; for, that we riſe or ſink with our company, is undeniable. Example—precept—a ſenſe of ſhame—and a deſire to pleaſe, are great, I had almoſt ſaid infallible, poliſhers of the manners; and we become very decent copies of firſt-rate originals, unleſs incorrigible beings indeed, and incapable of feeling, and of diſtinguiſhing.

I am plunged into the utmoſt

concern; — my amiable Bramin, Arabella, died laſt night; and died, I am aſſured, bleſſing me. It ſeems he took a fever, a few days ago, but my friends were ſo kind, they kept it from my knowledge; and, on my father's Sekar preſenting himſelf this afternoon, with a woe-begone aſpect, Mr. Hartly drew him aſide, as if on particular buſineſs, and received from him the account I have ſet before you.— Gentle and benevolent ſpirit!—if it is permitted for mortal beings to exerciſe thy care, and to be conſtituted objects of thy kindneſs, deign to beſtow a thought on me!—O! he was all that Heaven has ever condeſcended to make human nature—and I will raiſe a pagoda to his memory in my heart,

that ſhall endure till that heart beats no more.

How will they diſpoſe of his worthy remains? No funeral pile will, I hope, conſume them to aſhes—Yet wherefore that wiſh?—for then will they be ſecure from every poſſibility of inſult, or danger of mingling with duſt leſs pure than their own.

I have, by my father, begged the Sekar to procure, if that indulgence is not incompatible with the Gentoo cuſtoms, a lock of his hair, for the purpoſe, my dear girl, of making it a mental taliſman, like the poor monk's box and Yorick, againſt all the irregularities to which we Chriſtians

are ſubject. You want ſuch a ſhield the leaſt of any perſon I do or ever did know; yet, Arabella, you ſhall have a locket ſet with pearl, with ſome device ſuitable to the occaſion, and wear it near your heart, for its virtues will be abundant.

My ſenſibility was, however, too much intereſted by this unexpected event, for raillery to be ſeaſonable, or good advice well timed; I therefore retired to my chamber, not, I fear, to ſleep, but to reflect upon the tranſient gift of exiſtence.—Doyly will feel for me, if you mention this news to him, for much did he honour and prize my Bramin, and court his favour. Doyly may, nevertheleſs, even

even whilſt I am writing his name, have reached the confines of eternity, and found the ocean as mercileſs, as the cruel diſeaſe to which our favourite has fallen a victim. Peace, unending peace, be with his ſhade!—and, take notice, that ſhould time and chance reſtore me to my country, I will erect a pagoda in Britain, to perpetuate the remembrance to *my*, or, what will be exactly the ſame thing, *your* poſterity, that ſo exemplary a character was on the liſt of my Bengal acquaintance; and that I doubt not but I ſhall meet him, where parting is an evil no longer to be apprehended; and ſin and ſorrow have no place. I would not, Arabella, believe, at this moment, that any attachment he

felt for me, was the cauſe of the ſlighteſt pain to him, for the world —and henceforth be all my vanity ſubdued.—Tyrants of every kind, are the terror and diſgrace of their ſpecies; but the victories of vanity, like thoſe of the grand enemy of mankind, are marked by devaſtation, and enjoyed without other delight, than the delight of a malign and baneful ſoul. I will, however, try to be chearful.

Did I ever tell you, that the Calcutta ladies are paſſionately fond of jeſſamine and roſes?—but ſuch is the fact; and moreover, if my recollection deceives me not, I called their bowers, *reſſes*, for fear you ſhould not underſtand

underſtand ſo obſolete a term, at this refined period, in England. It was an abſurdity of my own creation—for the celebrated bower of the celebrated Roſamond, at Woodſtock, will give you ſome proper idea of the Eaſtern taſte, in this reſpect; ſome of them being wholly impervious to the ſun-beam, and a moſt relieving ſituation, you may ſuppoſe, in ſuch a climate as Bengal—at the ſame time that they are diffuſing the moſt grateful odours around, and feaſting the eye with an intermixture of the loveliеſt productions of nature;—and theſe bowers alſo, it is a ſettled point in my breaſt, will be introduced by me, at my Britiſh villa;—not as an improvement, but a revolution

lution in the ornamentals of gardens—and a proof, that when good ſenſe bade adieu to my fair countrywomen, ſhe fled on the wings of the winds to this Eaſtern ſhore;—and, ſhould you, or your friends, be inclined to engage in her purſuit, you will find her, much at her eaſe, at Hartly Bungilo.

Theſe are flights of fancy, I grant you—mere creatures of the air I breathe; but let me once find myſelf ſet down ſafely on the banks of the Thames, and I will endeavour to convert them into realities; of which you would, I truſt, become a glad ſpectator.

We are all of us oddly ſituated.

—Mrs.

—Mrs. D——— is tired of India—but Mrs. D——— cannot declare as much, without implying that ſhe is deſirous of being a bride, the determined conſequence of her arrival there.—I ſigh for my Arabella's company, and would advance the ſecret wiſh of Mrs. D———'s heart; but that it is very probable poor Doyly and I ſhould then meet on the high ſeas, and have the power only of exchanging a paſſing look.—My father has affairs to ſettle, he cannot ſo ſuddenly bring to bear as he imagined—and is ſo fettered and ſo entangled by his own ſublime ideas, and the ſublimity of his bride elect's ſentiments, that he knows not which way to turn himſelf.—Moreover, ſhould fate and

fortune

fortune ſend Doyly back—have I not a vow, like a wall of braſs, thrown up between us?—I will only ſay thus much on the occaſion—that ſentiment leads us frail and narrow-ſighted beings into more follies and perplexities, than any other rule of conduct whatever. We muſt not, for example, make ourſelves happy, if not altogether conſiſtent with ſentiment; —we muſt not be ſincere to thoſe we love, unleſs that ſincerity can be reconciled to ſentiment;—nor, on detecting ourſelves guilty of an egregious abſurdity, dare to renounce it, unleſs duly authoriſed by ſentiment:—ſo that ſentiment, which is a thing amiable in itſelf, is rendered the moſt pernicious of all things in its effects;

and

and we live and die in the act of ſacrificing all that is truly valuable or amiable in life, to a chimera of our own brain; which we, like lunatics, dreſs up in the likeneſs of ſentiment. We laugh at the Gentoos, and their plurality of gods—but truly ridiculous our wiſdom muſt appear, which, inſtead of being exerted in the cauſe of happineſs, its whole end and aim is to teach us to be miſerable with a good grace, and undo the benevolent work of Providence with our own prophane hands;—for, to be happy, not miſerable, were we, moſt undoubtedly, created.

I will change my ſubject a ſecond time—for I can make nothing

thing to my ſatisfaction, or my reputation, of the one I am now engaged in.

I am called by the natives, Belate Be Bee—the Engliſh Lady;—for, however low rated in England, I am a ſovereign princeſs here; and, was I ſo inclined, could wring the hearts of my dependents. But, in like manner with yourſelf, Arabella, I love to ſee the human countenance dreſſed in ſmiles of content, of gratitude, of innocent pleaſure. It is a reproach of the ſevereſt kind, to a feeling temper, to have interrupted the felicity of others.

Belate Sab, is an Engliſhman; Chookalo Calalo, is a lighted candle:

dle :—but I am forming a vocabulary, with which I mean to preſent you, that I may at leaſt find one in England able to underſtand the words I have taken ſo much pains to acquire.

Beville, (for ſo he is univerſally called, in honour of his excellent performance of that character) viſits much at Hartly Houſe; and thoſe who profeſs the art of analyſing, place thoſe viſits to my account. If my converſation was half as agreeable to him as his is to me, there might be danger at Calcutta; but he has many connections that can ſupply my place to him, though his well-ſtored mind has no counter-part under this meridian.—I

therefore

therefore meaſure time by the long minutes till his return.

My father obſerves me more than uſual, as if he would read my moſt ſecret thoughts—I ſhrink not from his penetrating eye; I know he is too generous to conſtrain me, and too well read in his daughter's thoughts, to miſtake her wiſhes in any inſtance beyond the preſent moment.

I am courting Beville for *you*; and he has already taught himſelf to dwell upon your praiſes. Is the picture you draw of your friend, Madam, a real or a flattered likeneſs?—Why do oceans roll between us?—Your letters of recommendation, what a high

point

point of favour would they not procure for me!—I would make an immediate voyage to England, if I was poſſeſſed of ſuch credentials, and to ſuch a lady. Where it will end, I do not take upon me to ſay; but the marks are at preſent ſtrong about him, that whenever within the reach of you, he will make you a viſit.—Young D——, I perceive it, likes him not.—I honour him for it, becauſe it is not natural for us to love thoſe who eclipſe us; and at diſſembling, in this reſpect, he is a novice.—When my Bramin was alive, I had a ſtrange wild deſire to outſhine all my female acquaintance; the deſire was unworthy of me, and as ſuch has been reprobated by me. I ſet my

underſtanding no longer out to ſhew—I ſpend no idle hours at my toilet; and am an unintereſted participater of all the gay ſcenes which I behold others enjoying with rapture. You will be, perhaps, for placing this change in my taſte, temper, and conduct, to a wrong cauſe; but I proteſt to you, Doyly's abſence or preſence is no part of the queſtion, at this preciſe period, in the deranged breaſt of,

Your

S. G.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIII.

THE Sekars, or Brokers, to whom the ſale of all kinds of merchandize is intruſted, have an Ana, I underſtand, in every Rupee; keep three writers each; and are, many of them, maſters of much wealth:—but there is no doing without them, and they generally preſerve a fair reputation. My father is, however, ſo well ſatisfied with his Sekar, that he intends making him a handſome preſent on his leaving India.

I was laſt night at the tragedy of Zara, and ſhed abun-

dance of tears. The poet has indeed created a diſtreſſing conflict for a youthful heart, that has a powerful effect on the feelings; and I think, Arabella, the conſtitution of my mind is ſuch, that I ſhould have fell a victim to the parental injunction. What abundant reaſon have I not, therefore, to be thankful for my happy condition! for I am not more anxious for my freedom of choice in the article that muſt determine the colour of my future life (I mean, the choice either of a ſingle or a married ſituation) than my father is anxious in all things for my felicity; and I am as little deſirous of beſtowing myſelf contrary to my father's approbation, as I ſhould be reluctant to do violence

to my own inclination; which I indeed conſider as the natural rights of exiſtence.—I have ſat for my picture, to oblige Mrs. Hartly, but have enjoined her to let it remain in Calcutta, and not ſuffer her friendſhip to lead her into the error of believing, becauſe I may hold a tolerable firſt-rate place in her heart, that ſhe is entitled to introduce my reſemblance into her cloſet at Hartly Bungilo, where I ſhould diſgrace her collection.

It requires no ſmall talents, Arabella, to prevent our heads being the dupe of our hearts. We eſteem an object, and we will, for argument's ſake, allow the object to be eſtimable; but, the character is a private one, and

its beauties and its virtues have neither influence or operation beyond the ſmall circle of friendſhip; and conſequently, though to us very ſtriking and great, would become ridiculous by being brought forward to univerſal admiration, like a taper in the ſunbeam. And, I pray you, who am I, Sophia Goldſborne, that I ſhould be found amongſt the moſt perfect and the moſt accompliſhed of my ſex—who want not the aid of a foil to palliate the folly of my obtaining a niche?—I ſhould die with confuſion at ſuch a violation of common ſenſe and common decorum.

I have made an acquaintance with a Mrs. Savage, the gentlewoman

woman who keeps a boarding-ſchool at Calcutta, and find her very well qualified for ſo arduous an undertaking; for her morals are good, and her underſtanding cultivated. She ſighs, however, ſhe confeſſes, like myſelf, for her native country; and will, I doubt not, as ſoon as ſhe is able, return to England. The loſs Calcutta muſt ſuſtain on ſuch an event taking place, has made me caſt about for a ſucceſſor: and I hoped Mrs. Rider might have been prevailed upon; but ſhe modeſtly declines, ſaying, there is a great difference between the education of children under the parental roof, and in a ſituation that renders you anſwerable at all points for their ſafety and welfare; an

undertaking no abilities are equal to; for, in ſuch a ſituation, you muſt depend upon others, who may either abuſe or betray their truſt, and defeat the beſt-formed, and the honeſt-executed plan, as far as reſpects the ſuperior on earth.

There are, however, in England, my good girl, many accompliſhed and ſlenderly provided for women, with more courage than Mrs. Rider poſſeſſes, that might be induced, by the knowledge of the great advantages derivable from the exerciſe of their talents at Calcutta, to make the voyage. Will you put the knowledge, therefore, into circulation? for no one article of female pro-

viſion

viſion or accommodation can be of half the importance as the happy direction of the mind and manners, at the period when impreſſions are moſt lively and indelible. For I would challenge my whole ſex, by an appeal to their own experience, to diſprove this aſſertion, ſo well underſtood by Pope, and ſo worn in the public eye by quotation—

For as the twig is bent, the tree's inclin'd.

And ſo much has the worthy and amiable Mrs. D——her good wiſhes in this cauſe, that ſhe has offered to be a ſubſcriber to any eſtabliſhed fund, for making it an object with an accompliſhed Engliſhwoman to ſpend one ſeven years of her life at Calcutta, and to enſure a valuable

valuable candidate for the vacancies as they may occur.

My father has purchaſed a ſpot for a Bungilo. I was low-ſpirited at the information, it ſeemed ſo ſtrongly to imply our prolonged reſidence in India. Mrs. D—— has had the goodneſs, however, to let me into a ſecret; for my father intends it as a compliment to Miſs Hartly on her becoming Mrs. D——, with the permiſſion, nevertheleſs, of him and his friends to viſit it, whilſt he is within the reach of ſuch viſitation.

How variable is human opinion! —this intelligence conſtituted that very act a pleaſure, which, while its

its motives were unaſcertained, excited much pain—and here am I, entering, with my whole powers, into its decoration and embelliſhment.—Adieu, my Arabella! I do not at this moment deſpair of our re-union.

S. G.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIV*.

I HAVE expoſed myſelf, Arabella, and every tongue in Calcutta is now employed in telling it. My father preſented himſelf ſomewhat haſtily, I thought, becauſe unexpectedly, juſt as we were this day ſeated at dinner; and ſtanding behind my chair, without the leaſt preparation, ſaid, "Poor Doyly is"—and on ſome account, I did not obſerve what, ſtopped.

* The date of which is ſix months after the preceding one.

"Is

"Is what?" cried I, with an emotion that ſurpriſed all the company—"O what, Sir, is poor Mr. Doyly?"—"Only," replied my dear father, preſſing my hand, "only arrived, within this ten minutes, ſafe at Calcutta."

What a mortifying diſcovery has the intereſt I took in his ſafety occaſioned!—Mrs. Hartly endeavours to ſooth me into ſelf-reconcilement, but, I think, it can never more take place. Infatuated girl!—but firſt impulſes, I find, are not to be guarded againſt; and the ſecret of my heart, which I have ſo long treaſured up, has eſcaped me, irrecoverably eſcaped me!—"Where is the good gentleman," ſaid Mrs. Hartly, with a provoking

provoking turn of countenance, "ſhall we not be favoured with his company?"—"He is following me," replied my father, "with diſpatches for Sophia, from her old friend and ſchool-fellow; the honour of preſenting which he refuſed making a transfer of, or I ſhould have had the delivering of them."

Doyly now entered, and with his uſual grace bowed to the company; who with one voice congratulated him on his return, except the fooliſh weak creature I need not name. His dreſs improved his appearance—I never ſaw any body—abſtracted from all ſuperabundant partiality—look ſo well in deep mourning. An un-

cle, who ſtood between him and the poſſeſſion of a fine eſtate, and who, with an unkindneſs that forbids all regret for his deceaſe, had compelled him to quit his native country a mere adventurer, did not live to reproach him, on his return to England, with the madneſs (as he called it) of his Eaſt India voyage, though ſolely reſulting from the narrowneſs of his finances, and the conſequential unfavourableneſs of his proſpects in life. And (could you have ſuppoſed ſuch a thing, Arabella?) the young man's head, on this change of fortune, became inſtantly giddy, inſomuch that, having got rid of his commiſſion the firſt poſſible moment, he forgot every earthly creature, and every earthly ſpot,

except

except Calcutta, and ſome few friends there that ſhall be nameleſs, and accordingly embarked, with a heart I had marked down for ſome other female's prize, in the firſt packet, in order to lay that no leſs faithful than affectionate heart at my feet; and, delivering me back my own packet, made every imaginable apology for his ſin of omiſſion, &c. &c. on the occaſion.

And this wild act my father conſiders as a token of violent regard, forbidding me, by his looks and example, to ſhew any diſpleaſure. An exclamation, however, eſcaped me, that ſufficiently ſpoke my feelings:—"Not ſeen my Arabella!—not given her the

ſatisfaction of knowing I am alive! or enabled yourſelf to tell me a thouſand pleaſing particulars where her welfare is concerned!—O Mr. Doyly, is it poſſible?"—"Yes," replied my father, in an accent that mortified me not a little, "it is, my dear Sophia, poſſible, that *poor* Mr. Doyly is ſafe arrived at Calcutta."

Wonderful all this!—nor do I foreſee when my wonder will ceaſe.—Now am I convinced of the power of my charms, and ſhall want no farther ſupport in my own good opinion for ever.

Mrs. D——'s reception of Doyly was like herſelf, engaging beyond what I can deſcribe. "Our par-

ties," ſaid ſhe, "have been incomplete without you, and my *petits ſoupers* devoid of animation. Remember, we never loſe you again at Calcutta; nor will I open my doors, unleſs you are to be one of the company."

Young D—— ſtared, and I enjoyed the alarms this addreſs viſibly gave riſe to in his breaſt; for at Calcutta, as I have repeatedly told you, the idea of matrimony is inſeparable from the knowledge of an acquaintance between the ſexes—and he ſeemed to anticipate his downfall, ſhould his mother-in-law take a huſband to herſelf, not much more than his own age.

Mrs. D—— ſaw the effect her good-humour and friendſhip for Doyly had produced in the ſelfiſh mind of her ſon; and, to the entertainment of all preſent (for all preſent were ſoon aware of her motive) coqueted with the young man, until the hour for retirement arrived; but then thought proper to undeceive him, leſt any miſchief between them ſhould enſue;—for Mr. D—— wears a ſword—and who will not grant, that a rival in intereſt, is as ſevere a provocation, with ſome tempers, as a rival in love?—A pretty winding up, indeed, it would have proved of Mr. Doyly's romantic voyage, to have had his throat cut, from an innocent frolic, in the hour of

ſelf-congratulation and imagined ſecurity!—but that, Arabella, is frequently found the hour of our worſt danger—and, of courſe, it is our duty to be evermore on our guard.

But let me do Doyly juſtice, before I go to ſleep.—He did, I find, enquire for you, agreeably to the ſuperſcription of my letters, but you was gone into the country. He waited your return, while patience, in his ſituation, was a virtue—and did *intend*, but forgot to fulfil his intention, to leave them in the care of your ſervant, with a note of lamentation for the diſappointment he had met with, in not meeting with your fair ſelf;—and ſo the whole matter

ter is rather more decently accounted for than in the firſt inſtant;—for, let me bear witneſs, when the heart is occupied by ſuch fluctuating ſubjects as the winds and the waves, it is not extraordinary the memory ſhould be abſorbed, and the conduct vague and inconſiſtent. His return would have given me tenfold pleaſure, if he had brought me news of my Arabella; — but, from this ſtate of the caſe, I think he muſt be forgiven — What ſay you? — Aye or No!

Adieu!

O talk not to me of the wealth ſhe poſſeſſes—

it ſeems, was the language of Doyly, on my father's attempting

to make a long ſpeech relative to what he intended to give me:—and thus you find me on the edge of the matrimonial precipice;—for, though tender diſtreſs, and delicate embarraſſment, are very pretty decorations for *painted* ſcenes—the realities of life need receive no ſuch colourings from the pencil—for the ſenſible head, and the ſympathiſing heart, feels them all;—I ſhall, therefore, ſay not one word how I looked, or how I replied, when ſolicited by the man of my choice, on the one hand, to accept him, and commanded by my father, on the other hand, to follow my own inclinations. Generous, indulgent command!—for well was he acquainted with the bent of my inclinations, before

ſuch command was iſſued;—the Padra, therefore, ſtands a good chance of obtaining ſome twenty gold mohrs, at leaſt, on my account—but I will have the whole affair as private as poſſible, let my friends remonſtrate as they may.

Lord Cornwallis is on his way to Calcutta, to aſſume the reins of government. That he is a man of faſhion, we hear without emotion;—but that we hear he is a man of abilities and honour, we rejoice. He will be received with every mark of diſtinction, in honour of his and our Sovereign; but his hour of departure, alone, will evince the advance he has made in our approbation and at-

tachment.—I ſtand impartial, and will give his claims due weight:—but, if it ſhould be required of me to forget the Governor I have known, and ſink his fame in the celebrity of any new-comer, I ſhall beg to be excuſed. Hereditary advantages, however brilliant their effects, are but ſecondary recommendations;—the ſelf-ennobled individual, and him who diſgraces not the memory of his illuſtrious forefathers, being the only highly-revered characters in this land of commerce and plain underſtanding.

I am, &c. &c.

Your's,

S. G.

LETTER

LETTER XXXV.

AMAZEMENT!—ſo this ſame little winning Mr. Doyly, is the godſon of my beloved mother, and your near relation.—A pretty plot this!—and may I loſe my pretenſions to the privileges of a Chriſtian female, if I pardon your ſhare in it—or, what is tantamount, be compelled to embrace the narrow and illiberal faith of the ſons of Omar; which, by the way, I have now ſome thoughts of doing—for I ſhall, at leaſt, be of conſequence whilſt living, if annihilation (in the opinion of my adorers) muſt be my portion

portion when dead;—and that is more than my profeſſed friends, though of the race of Believers, have choſe to give me, in this inſtance.—The following is the confeſſion the offending parties in the Eaſt have been brought to make; nor ſhall I fail to add your's thereto, the firſt opportunity by which it can be obtained.

My father, perceiving me diſinclined to marry in the Eaſt, for wealth, &c. with men old enough to make me guilty, in ſo doing, of a breach of the canonical articles, which poſitively forbid your marrying your grandfather;—and anxious to unbend *tête-à-tête* with a ſon-in-law likely to make his daughter happy—writes off to England

England for Doyly, telling him, if his proſpects were not improved, he believed he could promiſe to be ſerviceable to him in India. Doyly embarks, and, being arrived, receives the offer, point-blank, of his friend's daughter, with all her emoluments and endowments, provided her conſent could be obtained; in which attempt he was to have all lawful aid and aſſiſtance.

Doyly (as who would not) ſnaps at the offer. A young damſel of my claims and appearance might, Arabella, have been carried with ſucceſs to a much higher market; —but every man in his humour, ſay I—and, being my father's property, he had a right to indulge his

his fancy, as far as it was reconcileable to my wiſhes.

Doyly began his manœuvrings, I ſuppoſe, nothing doubting; for where is there a young man in this age to be found, that thinks humbly of himſelf — perſon or mind?—when lo! what ſhould come to paſs, but his imbibing ſo exalted an idea of the height and depth of my deſervings, that he falls into the ſtate of boobyiſm, which cauſed all my ſuſpence, folly, &c. &c.—for, though his reſpect for my mental merits was abundant, from repeated converſations with you, our common friend, thereon—yet, not having ſeen me, within my remembrance, my perſonal graces (which were

to

to be ſuperadded to the account) were ſo dazzling and ſo diſmaying, that he very childiſhly gives away his heart, without ſeeking a return in kind; — and no leſs childiſhly reſolves never to diſcloſe his tender abſurdity, until ſome change, or chance, had lifted him a few degrees nearer an equality with me in pecuniary matters;—a reſolution that locked up his lips, not only in all the intercourſe he enjoyed with me (and encouragement to ſpeak out, I fear, was legible in my countenance, had tranſlating looks been his talent) but, in the moment alſo of bidding adieu, when preſumption is ſo excuſable, becauſe ſo natural in a lover—who knows not what he does or ſays, until his offended

Dulcinea recals him, by her anger, to a ſenſe of his crime, and he begs pardon, and offends—and offends, and begs pardon, to the laſt point of the laſt interview between them.

But, to ſhew you the metamorphoſis riches can produce—this timid, humble Doyly, is become the moſt ardent and precipitate of lovers—and would have ſeized my hand, *nolens volens*, the firſt evening of his arrival at Calcutta; in conſequence, however, I ſhould add, of the univerſal opinion (with my father at the head of that opinion) that I entertained a ſecret *tendre* for him.—Secret, do I call it?—that ever falſehood and deceit ſhould look ſo well upon paper!—

paper!—but, bound by the laws of decorum to preſerve ſuch ſecrets inviolate, that ſhould, Arabella, by the courteſy of our friends, be deemed a ſecret, which has not been confeſſedly revealed, whatever prefumptive evidence is producible of the contrary.

And yet, there is ſomething premature in the buſineſs;—for who knows what friends Lord Cornwallis may bring over with him—to make one repent one's yieldingneſs of temper?—I have, however, placed the emblems of tranquil feelings before me (the devices I mentioned to you, wrought with the hair of my departed Bramin) in order to extinguiſh the embers of vanity,

now

now re-kindling in my heart:—yet what have I to aſk of quiet-mindedneſs, more than I poſſeſs?—for, Arabella, I am content to leave Calcutta, without occaſioning one ſcene of blood and ſlaughter in my name, under the ſpreading branches of the trees of deſtruction (which might have been ſo reaſonably expected from my charms) in conteſt for the honour of my hand; and am preparing myſelf (with my own conſent) to domeſticate in Britain, to the very confines of oblivion — which is carrying the virtue of humility to a moſt unprecedented height, in a damſel of my complexion and turn of ſentiment.

The ſame round of amuſements is

is about to take place, as at this time laſt year.—The Gentoo holidays begin firſt—the races ſucceed—and the theatre will open ſome weeks ſooner than at that period;—all things being thus early in a proper train, out of compliment, I ſuppoſe, to the expected Governor—ſo that we ſhall not want amuſement;—and I have it in contemplation to point out a few dramatic characters to Doyly, which, I perſuade myſelf, he would fill in a manner far from diſgraceful to either me or himſelf. Calcutta once more looks like itſelf;—men, Arabella, in other words, abound;—and I am beheld, by all my old acquaintance, as if I had horns on my head, becauſe I have not

renounced my maiden ſtate;—but the myſtery will ſoon be unravelled, and they will find, that tho' wealth could not tempt me, modeſt merit, noble-mindedneſs, and a long liſt of matrimonial requiſites, could prevail, even over a vow—a vow you can produce againſt me, to the impeachment of my morals, and the diſcolouring of my lily-white fame;—for, amongſt my other articles of celebrity, my ſincerity of heart, and the ſincerity of my lips (or, as you would call it, veracity) have a diſtinguiſhed place.—I thank you for your kind remembrance of me, and ſhall conceive every cauſe loſt, in which you may chuſe to accept a brief—ſo prevailing are the reaſons you have ſet before me,

me, in excuſe for Doyly's conduct—not to mention a word of the force of example—for you, Arabella, forgive him neglects, I could not hope you to pardon.

I am your's, &c.

S. G.

LETTER XXXVI.

LORD Cornwallis is hourly expected, and bugeros are in readineſs to fall down the Hughley, on its being announced he has made the mouth of the Ganges.

Mrs. D——, with an ardour I did not think her capable of, has fitted herſelf and friends out at all points, to do this great man honour—at leaſt, by adding one more bugero to his train; and my father ſays, our company cannot be diſpenſed with.

What

What can I ſay?—my ſpirits are in uniſon with the occaſion;—

My ſhepherd is kind, and my heart is at eaſe.

But I ſhall not be without my apprehenſions;—for, did I not ſee the time, when Doyly's life was in imminent danger, though on a party of pleaſure:—but Doyly promiſes to be diſcreet, and Mr. Emſon has taken himſelf to England;—I will, therefore, ſpeak peace to my fears, and gratify Mrs. D——'s deſire of exhibiting me.—But of Mrs. D—— I have ſomewhat to mention, not quite ſo much in the ſtyle of friendſhip as I had expected; ſhe can have her concealments, as well as a certain young Lady, when ſhe pleaſes—for (could you have thought it)

my father's will, which he put into her hands to peruſe, when ſhe was about to make her own, contained his approbation of Doyly for a ſon-in-law — his act of ſending for him from England, for the purpoſe of gaining my favour—and a ſolemn requeſt, that ſhe would finiſh what he had begun, provided it was diſcovered to be my inclination.—A pretty buſineſs, truly!—and thus, it is probable, ſhe will be often employed by him, in ſecret ſervices reſpecting his child, that will be preconcerted between them.—I would be angry, if I could reſiſt being pleaſed—but, next to yourſelf, Arabella, ſhe is the wiſeſt and the beſt creature on earth.—Mrs. Hartly is not forgot by me—

nor

nor her ſweet diſpoſition unremembered. She has, however, a family to ſhare her attentions and kindneſſes; whereas Mrs. D—— is ours entirely, and without alloy.

One of our viſiting friends has taken a French leave of us. I believe I have told you, that one ſide of the river Hughley is privileged ground, the oppoſite ſhore to Calcutta, to which place this young ſpark is fled. He ſpent his evening, I find, in the tavern, at the gaming-table, where, having loſt conſiderable ſums, he was puſhed on from one act of deſperation to another, until, not being worth a ſhilling, he was compelled to become a fugitive among

fugitives (for no one of good proſpects or good connections reſides there) the fatal and frequent conſequence of this dreadful infatuation. Card-playing was deſigned for amuſement only, to unbend the mind from too intenſe ſtudies, and to diſſipate too intenſe reflection. It has, however, been perverted into an engine of deſtruction — a calamity without a mitigation—for what reſources has a wretch in his hour of ſelf-created affliction, when the whole world, and his own heart, are united in his condemnation? The gameſter, moreover, ſeldom falls alone; an amiable wife, a lovely offſpring, are too often involved in the cruſhing misfortune; and ſuch is the nature of his profeſſion, that even

ſucceſs

ſucceſs ought to wound his feelings, for he muſt, Arabella, undo, if he is not undone.

I am, nevertheleſs, ſo much intereſted in the fate of this young ſinner, that I have beſought Doyly to ſerve him if he can—for he is the victim of premature, of unbounded proſperity;—had he been leſs, he would have been much more fortunate. We ſhall therefore make a point of procuring him ſome moderate re-eſtabliſhment, which, we truſt, he will be ſmarted into a knowledge of the value of, and game no more.

Lord C——— is arrived, and profeſſed

profeſſed himſelf much pleaſed with his reception.

Every creature is flying to his houſe to pay their *baiſe-mains*; and it is ſaid, that as ſoon as the buſtle is over, the Nabob will make him a public viſit. There will be a ſight, Arabella, for an European gentlewoman! — How lucky it is, my hour for embarking did not arrive previous to this grand raree-ſhow!

Our voyage was a pleaſant and delightful one—for when the ſurface is ſmooth, I am fond of water excurſions — and, by what you London people experience in your parties to and from Vauxhall, &c. &c. you may judge how muſical accom-

accompaniments muſt increaſe the pleaſure of the Eaſtern voyaging.

Young D—— has a good voice, and, what I ſhould never have ſuſpected him of, ſings with much taſte. We had an awning of kittaſaws, and did our beſt to be noticed when the Bugero of bugeros paſſed us; but, mortifying ſo ever as the confeſſion may be, it ſhall be confeſſed that I verily believe we were confounded with the multitude.

My father has furniſhed himſelf with large aſſortments of Eaſtern manufactures, by much the largeſt part of which is intended for a preſent to my friend, ſo that you ſtand a chance of eclipſing all the

Miſſes

Miſſes of your acquaintance — a moſt ſentimental gratification: but as for my part, *ſimplex munditiis* ſhall be my motto, which requires as much ſkill to hit off, without being under or over dreſſed in a ſingle article, as any female etiquette I know. Moreover, ſo altered am I in my views and wiſhes, that I have ſettled with myſelf to affect the Gentoo air, which is an aſſemblage of all the ſoft and winning graces prieſts or poets have yet deviſed a name for, and Doyly ſhall figure away as my Bramin; and ſo well have I inſtructed him in every humane tenet of that humane religion, that he will not hurt a butterfly, nor can he diſpatch even a troubleſome muſketto without a correſpondent pang — and

habit,

habit, you know, is ſaid to give us a kind of ſecond nature;—but it is to do Mr. Doyly barely juſtice to ſay, that no ſavage climate, not even the climate of his, mine, or your anceſtors, has power to render him aught but the friend of all created nature, and the univerſal admirer of all Nature's productions;—but, as Sterne ſays, I am not celebrating the man, but the ſentiment.

We are to have a fiſhing party next week, for the participation of which amuſement, nature has diſqualified me by a painful degree of ſenſibility; for I cannot call by the name of pleaſure, what muſt be purchaſed at the high price of the ſuffering or death of

of any thing that exiſts. This was the firſt attaching feature my ſtill-lamented Bramin diſcovered in my mental character. "You are," ſaid he, "Madam, a Chriſtian by profeſſion, but a Gentoo by nature; you would have done honour to the religion of Brumma." —They refuſed me not, as I apprehended, a lock of this ſaint's hair, and I have had it elegantly ſet for his ſake. He merited no leſs a compliment, in return for his unfeigned approbation of me.

It is got abroad, that we mean ſoon to leave Bengal; and here I have it, under the hand and ſeal of one of my adorers, that broken conſtitutions, and broken hearts,

will be the conſequence of my departure; for that thoſe who do not die of grief, will ſend themſelves ſpeedily to their graves by libations to Neptune for my ſafety. This, in your ſober judgment, may be deemed carrying gallantry to exceſs; but there have been inſtances of facts to the full as extravagant, ſome years ago;—the Eaſtern world is, however, much improved, and their errors corrected.

A generation of European children (if you will give ſuch an Iriſhiſm your paſſport, when you obſerve that I mean children born in the Eaſtern world) grow up daily, whoſe natural endowments are excellent, and their education

tion wonderful for this diſtant land; ſo that, inſtead of languiſhing, as formerly, for European ladies, and receiving with rapture the hands of ſuch as have the courage to brave all the perils of the ocean to obtain them a huſband, and arrive with their credentials from the Company in their hands;—wives are now choſen, by men of nice feeling, from among theſe India-born ladies, (through natural intimacies, and a knowledge of their tempers, manners, and conduct) in preference to theſe adventurers. Yet is there no rule without an exception—ſo that if you will be prevailed upon, Arabella, to make an Eaſt India voyage, I will engage a genius of my acquaintance, who has repeatedly celebrated my

ſmall

ſmall merits, both in proſe and verſe, to preſent you a congratulatory addreſs upon your arrival, and will enſure you a hoſt of admirers.

You will, I fancy, be convinced by my trifling, I am no love-ſick nymph—no, Arabella! ſo far from it, that though it is not unlikely I may marry Doyly, in obedience to my father's commands, you muſt do me the juſtice to acknowledge I bore his abſence like a heroine, and ſeldom or ever made him the ſubject-matter of my letters to England. I have managed, however, to my father's ſatisfaction, and have taught myſelf to deſpiſe your malicious ſmiles;—yet, on recollection, be-

fore it is given me to embrace my Arabella, by being made the young man's lawful wife, it may be more for my credit to confeſs, than deny the tender ſentiments with which he inſpired me.

In Calcutta, I believe, Hymen is ſeldom known to be attended at the nuptial ceremony by Cupid (for it is who bids moſt that wins the prize); and whilſt the fair lady's perſon appertains to one happy man alone, her converſation is at the ſervice of all thoſe who have ſufficient intereſt to get themſelves introduced to her; and the huſband is ſo complaiſant as to aſk no queſtions.

Your's, &c.

S. G.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVII.

ALAS, Arabella, I am undone! — I have beheld ſo brilliant, ſo divine a ſpectacle — am ſo dazzled, and ſo captivated, and, like Gulliver in the land of Lilliput, find all the objects around me ſo diminutive and ſo mean, that I overlook and diſregard them at every point. You will perceive, by this exordium, the Nabob has made his intended viſit to the new Governor, and has carried off the heart of your unfortunate friend; —but I will endeavour to conquer and regulate my feelings.

From Chitpore (the Nabob's palace) to Calcutta, I have already told you is four miles; from whence ſuch a proceſſion as I muſt never hope to behold again, proceeded to the Eſplanade, and that at a very early hour in the morning.

His guards, on the occaſion, were no leſs in number than his whole battalion of black troops, fine-looking fellows — and their complexions gave a grandeur to the ſcene. Their uniform and their turbans were new, and their fire-arms glittering bright; and I would have given the world on the inſtant to have been a Nabobeſs, and entitled to ſo magnificent a train.

I whiſ-

I whiſpered Doyly, and aſked him, what he thought of the London ſights in ſuch a moment? He ſhook his head with due contempt, but made no reply, as we were ſurrounded by thoſe who would have taken umbrage at the moſt diſtant reflection (though in the voice of truth) on England.

Seven elephants of the firſt magnitude were led by their keepers, in like manner as our ſumpter-horſes; ſeated on the back of one of which, on a throne of indeſcribable ſplendor, was his Nabobſhip, with a man behind him, holding a ſuperb fan, in the very act of collecting the breezes in his ſervice.

The throne was compoſed of gold, pearls, and brilliants, and the nabob's dreſs worth a ſovereignty; nor was ever animal more grandly capariſoned than the no leſs honoured than exalting elephant on which he rode.

His ſtate-palanquin followed, and was by much the moſt deſirable object my eyes ever encountered, and differently built to thoſe uſed by the Europeans. Four pillars of maſſy ſilver ſupporting the top, which was actually encruſted by pearls and diamonds; and, inſtead of verandas, fine glaſs plates on every ſide, as well as the back and front, to ſhew his Mightineſs's perſon, I ſuppoſe, to the greateſt advantage.

I was

I was ſtationed nearly on a level with the throne as it paſſed along; — and judge, Arabella, if you can, of the ambitious throbs my heart experienced, when I ſaw the Nabob's eyes, ſparkling with admiration, fixed on my face! — Doyly turned pale, and the proceſſion advanced — yet were my charms unforgotten by him; for he twice or thrice looked back, and conſtituted me the envy of the women, and the torture of the men; in a word, my conqueſt was as evident as the noonday ſun: and who could dream of a mortal female's refuſing an enthroned adorer, with the wealth of the Indies at his feet?

Down knelt the half-reaſoning

animal, at the entrance of the Governor's houſe, for his illuſtrious maſter to alight;—ſo powerful, yet ſo docile!—ſo gentle, yet ſo terrific in their appearance!—I am dying, Arabella, to have one of theſe very Elephants at my command.

Breakfaſt was prepared for this princely gueſt, at the Governor's;—from whence he was conducted acroſs the Eſplanade, to the New Fort, where the troops were drawn out, to compliment him with an exhibition of their martial manœuvrings;—and he was ſhewn, with apparent aſtoniſhment, to how great a diſtance bomb-ſhells can be thrown.—He was accommanied by the Governor's Aid-de-camp,

camp, the whole day—expreſſed much delight on viewing the camp at Bugee Bugee—but returned to Chitpore to dinner, the peculiar cuſtoms of his religion not admitting of his mixing with the Europeans, on that occaſion. Many of the officers were invited to his palace, and ſumptuouſly entertained, in an adjoining apartment; and in the evening, ſome beautiful fire-works were played off in the garden of Chitpore—and the company returned much ſatisfied with his liberal and courteous demeanour.

I thought of Lady Wortley Montague's account of her being noticed by the Grand Seignior, when ſpectator of a Turkiſh proceſſion,

ceſſion, on the Nabob's obſervation of me;—but there was this difference between the circumſtances—namely, that the attention the Sultan paid that Lady was merely *en paſſant*; whereas this Nabob of Nabobs proved, in the face of all the people, how long he bore me in mind — that is, how deeply he was wounded—and I hold myſelf in expectance of hearing more of him.

The return of the proceſſion was with the ſame ceremonies—and I have dreamed alone of ſtate palanquins, thrones, elephants, and ſeapoys, ever ſince.

My friends, who viſited the Fort, and traced the Nabob's ſteps

ſteps wherever he went, tell me, a ſhip now on the ſtocks, at Watſon's Works, of three decks (the firſt ever built at Calcutta) will be launched in a few days, and receive the name of the Earl Cornwallis, in honour of our Governor.—It will, no doubt, be a brilliant day;—but whether it will be thought ſafe to truſt me to be a ſpectator, or not, leſt the Nabob ſhould form plans for carrying me off, is uncertain, until I have heard the opinion of my male friends. That Doyly was frightened, is moſt certain;—but an Engliſhwoman was not born to fear giant knights, or enchanted caſtles; and the more eſpecially, where an army would ſtand forth in her protection and defence. It would

would flatter my vanity to find them alarmed.—Ha! ha! ha! Arabella—did you ever imagine your friend would make ſo magnificent a conqueſt?—Poor Doyly, how ſmall he has felt himſelf ever ſince!—Forgive my folly—I recollect my Bramin, and am myſelf again.

I am affectionately,

Your's,

S. G.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVIII.

BLESS me, Arabella, how different objects can appear to different optics! — My father talks of nothing but going to England, or Doyly but of becoming a bridegroom.—" Softly, my dear Sir," ſaid I to him, " for there are a few preliminary articles to be adjuſted, before that great event can take place.—If my father marries not in India, I will follow his example; and ſo, if you chuſe to make it a concern of yours, get him to appoint his day, and that, I promiſe you, ſhall be mine."

We

We ſhall be a fine party of us, in croſſing the ocean;—for, Mr. and Mrs. Hartly, the children, Mrs. Rider, and young Mr. and Mrs. D——, will accompany us; —letters having arrived, that require Mr. Hartly's perſonal attendance in England, and he will not leave his family behind.

Mrs. D—— has been reproaching me, in the ſevereſt terms, for my treatment of Doyly.—Unkind Mrs. D——! I never thought it poſſible for you to chide in ſo ſerious a manner.—She ſays I ſhall diſtreſs my father beyond meaſure, by requiring what cannot be complied with.

"And why not, Mrs. D——," ſaid I, interrupting her, "why not, I beſeech you?—If a union *is* to take place between my father and you, wherefore ſhould you embark for England previous thereto?—or, if it can be neceſſary to obſerve ſuch delay, why ſhould you ſet yourſelf in array againſt a compliment I propoſe making you, of delaying my nuptials alſo, until the air of my native country gives me ſufficient reſolution to conſtitute Mr. Doyly my ſovereign lord?—Methinks he ſhews great impatience to aſſume the huſband."

Mrs. D—— walked off in great ſtate—the firſt fit of the pouts I have ever ſeen her fall into; and who

who will give the ſecond lecture on the ſubject, I am at a loſs to conjecture. — Perhaps your eloquent little friend, my intended— you underſtand me, Arabella— but I ſhall not allow it lawful for him to plead in his own cauſe.— His reports will be ſo partial, his repreſentations ſo——Ah, Arabella, I hear my father aſk for me!—what will become of me?

I have great powers, my good girl—and I ſtood in need of their utmoſt exertion, when oppoſed, as they have been, to Mrs. D——'s beſt performance. I acknowledge her to be a great actreſs, and only inferior to your friend, who has carried her point, to all intents and

and purpoſes; and not a word more is to be mentioned—until the Padra receives his inſtructions to fill his purſe in our ſervice.—I do not ſuppoſe, Arabella, that the evening will be worth leſs to him than 500 gold mohrs.

You will, perhaps, think I treat the ſubject very gayly.—I do—in order to keep my mind clear of melancholy thoughts. The dear woman, that is now a ſaint in heaven, approves the work I have accompliſhed; and I am teaching myſelf to forget the grave, and look for her only in the bright regions of eternity.

On which account, it has been determined, no one of us ſhall vi-

ſit the ſpot where her earthly remains are lodged. Mrs. Hartly affirms, it is flying in the face of Providence, to neglect the practice of reſignation; and Mrs. D——'s ſpeaking ſilence ſeems to claim that reſpect from us, no language could have engaged for her.—Sentimental ſorrow, as Dr. Johnſon calls it, is, I am now ſatisfied, the bane of happineſs, in a wider degree than the worſt evil under the ſun, which that refinement is prompted to reſiſt; inſomuch, that I hope you will find we have benefited by our voyage.

There are monſters, Arabella, in human ſhapes, and the Eaſtern world is (what I ſhould have returned

turned without conceiving it to be, but for the incident of this morning) the ſcene of tragedies that diſhonour mankind.—I have, within the paſſing hour, beheld one of theſe wretches conveyed to priſon—and may condign puniſhment be his portion!

He is, my dear, an officer in the army—who having, in ſome of his country rides, diſcovered an old man's daughter to be lovely beyond whatever this country has produced, cruelly and baſely reſolved to rob him of her. To her father's houſe he went, on this diabolical deſign, and was received by its innocent and unſuſpecting inhabitants with the utmoſt kindneſs;—in conſequence

of which reception, he changed his plan of outrage—and, instead of bearing her off, as he had intended, he settled it to violate the laws of hospitality—of God and of man—and accomplish his work of darkness under the paternal roof!

To win her, he found impossible—he therefore had recourse to violence; and, when the poor old man, terrified by his daughter's cries, advanced to her assistance, he shot him dead before his child's eyes; and then proceeded to fill up the measure of his iniquity. Yes! Arabella! the man whose profession it was to protect, thus brutally and barbarously destroyed!—May his name be

branded with infamy!—and his death be equally unpitied and ignominious.—I now rejoice, more than ever, that I am about to leave a country, where fiend-like acts are, I fear, much oftener perpetrated than detected; for, the grave complains not, and gold can unnerve the arm of juſtice.—Lord C——— will not, however, ſtain his noble deeds, by ſuffering ſuch a villain to eſcape; and the facts I have related are too well known, and too glaringly confirmed, to be palliated, or atoned by leſs than the life of him who could deviſe deeds of ſuch turpitude; or, when even deviſed, could have the ſavage nature to carry them into effect.—I am all indignation, terror,

ror, compaſſion, and agitation:—the young woman ſurvives, however, to appal the guilty wretch by her melancholy teſtimony.

We embark, Arabella, within the hour I am now devoting to my pen; and few evenings, I ſhould ſuppoſe, produced more weddings, than took place, three evenings ago at Hartly Houſe. Yes, Arabella, I have been three days a wife; and ſo abundantly are my family connections enlarged, that I have a mother I am proud to acknowledge, and ſiſters and brothers, in conſequence of my change of condition; for the ſiſter of Mrs. Hartly is now Mrs. D——'s daughter,

daughter, and inclination will convert an alliance into the ties of relationſhip, beyond legal claims: —and, Arabella, I bring over with me the man I have choſen for your huſband, the celebrated Beville of our Calcutta theatre.—Be propitious, ye gales; let not ſo much happineſs be the prey of diſaſter! — But remember, Arabella, for your conſolation, ſhould we all be buried in the deep, that Providence has a right to diſpoſe of us at will; and that, however unable mortals are to penetrate Heaven's deſign, every ſeeming misfortune is a diſguiſed bleſſing, to thoſe who poſſeſs rectitude of heart and uprightneſs of conduct: ſuch are kindly ſheltered, by what is called a violent death, from the approaching,

approaching, though unſeen, miſeries of exiſtence.

A thouſand times farewell!

S. D.

LETTER XXXIX.

Portſmouth.

WE are all landed ſafe at this place, after a tedious, though not hazardous voyage.—The addition of your company is ardently wiſhed by every individual of the party to which I belong. Meet us then at Guildford, and augment the happineſs of your own

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